

REMARKS

In response to an Office Action mailed 27 September 2002 including a restriction requirement, Applicants elected the Invention of Group I, Claims 1-31, for prosecution on the merits in the subject U.S. Patent Application. In a subsequent Office Action, dated 15 January 2003, Examiner Rossi withdrew Claims 32-41 from further consideration as a result of Applicants' election. Applicants filed an Amendment on 15 April 2003 in response to the Office Action, wherein Claims 32-41 were canceled. Applicants filed a subsequent Amendment, wherein Claims 32-41 were listed as canceled, on 04 September 2003. The subject Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment was mailed on 16 September 2003.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, stating that "the text for withdrawn Claims 30-41 have not been presented" and requiring that the Amendments to the Claims section be re-submitted, was incorrectly mailed. Applicants submit that the Amendment filed on 04 September 2003 meets the requirements of 37 CFR 1.121, as amended on 30 June 2003. During a telephone conference between Examiner Rossi and the undersigned attorney, Examiner Rossi confirmed that the notice was incorrectly mailed and that listing Claims 32-41 as canceled in the filed Amendment documents was appropriate. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Notice Of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed 16 September 2003.

Applicants intend to be fully responsive to the outstanding Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment. If the Examiner detects any issue which the Examiner believes Applicants have not overcome in this response, Applicants' undersigned attorney requests a telephone interview with the Examiner. The undersigned can be reached at 847.490.1400.

Serial No.: 09/871,171

Docket No.: KCC-15,135

Applicants sincerely believe that this Patent Application is now in condition for allowance and, thus, respectfully request early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Krischke

Eric T. Krischke
Registration No. 42,769

Pauley Petersen & Erickson
2800 West Higgins Road
Suite 365
Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60195
TEL (847) 490-1400
FAX (847) 490-1403